

#09-41  
09/15/09



**\*\*Career Opportunity\*\***

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT,  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

Career Opportunity: English/Spanish Court Interpreter

Opportunity Location: Laredo, Texas

Application Opportunity: Until Filled

Starting Pay Range: \$95,010 - \$123,519 (JSP 14)\*  
\*Salary Commensurate with Qualifications.

***OVERVIEW:***

In proceedings initiated by the United States, court interpreters are responsible for interpreting communications for defendants and defense witnesses who primarily speak a language other than English, or who do not have sufficient command of the English language to understand and communicate with the court, counsel, and probation/pretrial service officers. Court interpreters provide interpreter services when necessary in all criminal proceedings. Additionally, court interpreters produce sight translations of relevant forms and documents, and may provide telephonic interpreting. The primary focus of the job is to provide simultaneous and consecutive interpretation services to guarantee due process to non-English speaking defendants, as well as providing the oral translation of court documents when needed. Interpreters' work allows defendants to hear the evidence, assist in their own defense, confront witnesses, and to communicate effectively with the court, counsel, probation and pretrial services officers, and others. Interpreters provide the means for non-English speaking defendants and defense witnesses to testify, and for defendants to be informed of the charging documents, bail forms, reports, including the pre-sentence report. When testimony is given in a foreign language, court interpreters protect the accuracy of the court record in English for consideration by court and jury. The use of competent interpreters in proceedings involving speakers of languages other than English is critical to ensure that justice is carried out fairly for the defendants and other stakeholders. The incumbent's work is an integral part of the efficiency with which the case flows through the court. Errors in judgment could cause legal consequences for the defendant and others involved in the case.

***REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:***

- Successful completion of the Federal Court Interpreter Certification Examination (FCICE).
- Four years of court interpreting experience.
- Ability to fluently speak, understand, read, and write English and Spanish. Advanced knowledge of idioms, slang, and regionalisms in both languages.
- Skill in simultaneous or consecutive interpretation and sight translation with a high degree of accuracy and at high speed of delivery.

- Ability to reproduce language register when dealing with both formal and informal speech, to listen to and retain lengthy segments of speech in both languages of up to 50 words in order to interpret without undue interruption and to preserve the accuracy of the record.
- Ability to take and read accurate notes in both languages.
- Ability to access and use reference materials as well as to develop and maintain personal professional glossaries.
- Ability to function well in an interpreting or translating team.
- Knowledge of advanced grammar and usage in both languages, including the ability to interpret smoothly, clearly, fully and accurately in both languages.
- Knowledge of court interpretation protocol and techniques.
- Knowledge of Federal and State court legal terminology and concepts in English and the relevant foreign language

Positions in the United States Courts are excepted appointments. Court employees are not under the Civil Service System and are “at will” employees.

### ***BENEFITS:***

Benefits include a retirement plan, Thrift Savings Plan with matching contributions, health/medical plans, Section 125 Flexible Benefit Plans, life insurance, long term care insurance and long term disability insurance, 10 annual holidays, annual and sick leave accrual plans. Direct electronic deposit of net pay is required. The Court is not authorized to reimburse candidates for travel or moving expenses.

### ***APPLICATION PROCESS:***

Please submit a completed Employment Application and a resume to Rosie Rodriguez, Deputy in Charge, 1300 Victoria St., Suite 1131, Laredo, TX 78040.

An employment application can be obtained from our website [www.txs.uscourts.gov](http://www.txs.uscourts.gov) or by calling 956 723-3542.

The Court reserves the right to withdraw this announcement without prior notice. Applications submitted may be considered for similar future opportunities. Applicants may be asked to take a proficiency test. The final candidates will be subject to a criminal records check with law enforcement agencies.

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**